



**U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
Private Sector Exchange**

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Guidance Directive 2008-02

Secondary School Student Program: Request for Comment on Paying Host Families

The Department is aware that some sponsors compensate families to host secondary school students, yet existing program regulations do not address payment of host families. In our April 2007 Discussion Paper, the Department identified the challenge in finding enough suitable host families, the rise in costs associated with hosting, and the payment of host families. The appropriateness of paying host families is a matter of debate within the sponsor community.

We seek your views on this issue.

The Regulations:

22 CFR 62.25(j)(4) – Requires that the host family is capable of providing a comfortable and nurturing home environment.

22 CFR 62.25(j)(5) – Requires that the host family has adequate financial resources to undertake hosting obligations.

The Issues:

1. Should families be paid to host a student? If no, why not? How is the money to be used? Could it be used for food, gas, etc. to cover the additional costs a family must assume in hosting or for student activities, entertainment, field trips, miscellaneous needs, school supplies, etc.? The Department is aware that some sponsors are paying host families between \$200 and \$300 each month per student.
2. Are there alternatives to be considered to paying host families? Two examples:
 - A sponsor establishes a cultural activity fund maintained by the local area coordinator. This fund could cover cultural activity expenses incurred on behalf of the students.
 - The Department could require natural parents to provide specific funding to offset expenses.

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We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please fax (202-203-5096) or e-mail (Melofchikbx@state.gov) your responses by May 21, 2008.

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